

CITIZENS' INDEPENDENT TRANSPORTATION TRUST (CITT)
Project Review Committee Meeting
Wednesday, August 27, 2003
Miami Dade Main Library
101 West Flagler Street
3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Summary of Minutes

CITT MEMBERS:

LtCol Antonio Colmenares, Chairman
Marc Buoniconti
Henry Lee Givens
Thamara Labrousse
Luis Morse
Miles Moss
James Reeder
Theodore Wilde

COUNTY ATTORNEY:

Bruce Libhaber, Assistant County Attorney

GUESTS:

Commissioner Jimmy Morales
Commissioner Natasha Seijas
Mayor Raul Martinez, City of Hialeah
Alberto Delgado, Public Works Director,
City of Coral Gables

OTHERS PRESENT:

Maria Alvarez, CUTR
Seraphin Bernard, MDT
Patricia David, OPTM
Virginia Diaz, OPTM
Charles Dunn, MDT
Eduardo Ereusun, Mayor Martinez's Office
Clinton Forbes, MDT
Jack Furney, OPTM
Mario Garcia, OPTM
Jose Galan, Public Works Dept.
Luis E. Lugo, Citizen
Manuel Mejido, Citizen
Terry Murphy, Commissioner Seijas Office
Patrick Owens, Empowerment Zone
Robert Pearsall, OPTM
Rebecca Sabow, Citizen
Caroline Thompson, Citizen
Ester Zabalo, City of Coral Gables

ROLL CALL

With a quorum being present LtCol Colmenares, Chairman called the meeting of Project Review Committee meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

OPENING REMARKS

LtCol Colmenares welcomed everyone to the meeting and recognized Commissioner Natasha Seijas, Commissioner Jimmy Morales and Mayor Raul Martinez, City of Hialeah.

AGENDA APPROVAL

LtCol Colmenares asked for a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was made by Mr. Wilde, seconded by Mr. Reeder and carried without dissent.

CITIZEN'S REMARKS

Dave Bartlett, South Miami Keyes Realty expressed his concern regarding an article he read in the Miami Today date August 21, 2003. The article mentioned that the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) called a special meeting on August 21, 2003 to discuss the proposed Metrorail extension to Miami International Airport before the federal review deadline August 28, 2003. However, the MPO did not have a quorum. The County needed to submit its final plans to Washington, D.C. by August 28, 2003 or it will not receive \$400 million in federal funding until next year.

COMMITTEE MEMBER REMARKS

None

PRESENTATIONS

LtCol Colmenares introduced the City of Hialeah Mayor, Raul Martinez and thanked him for agreeing to make a presentation regarding the use of the surtax proceeds for transit projects in the City of Hialeah.

CITY OF HIALEAH

Mayor Martinez stated that the City of Hialeah was one of the first cities to receive its share of the transportation funds from Miami Dade County's half-cent sales tax. He gave a power point presentation illustrating the local projects that will have been implemented with the use of the funds (copy of the presentation was distributed).

He expressed some disappointment for the cities that have not completed the necessary paperwork to receive its' percentage of the surtax proceeds. And expressed that those cities should be eager to begin developing their local transportation plans with the funds. Additionally, the Mayor stated that he felt confident that the citizens of Miami-Dade County would vote in favor of the Peoples

Transportation Plan (PTP). The campaign lent itself to informing the public of the various transportation projects intended for the future of the cities and county. As such, the Mayor bonded certain projects and made the appropriate plans necessary to demonstrate to the people that development was underway for the City of Hialeah.

He further stated that the Hialeah bus system was one project the he had worked to implement with the cooperation of the county. The bus system did not intend to compete with Miami Dade Transit System but to provide an improved bus system in Hialeah. The project was bonded through the Dade League Cities. In October of 2002 the new bus system was in place. While the Mayor felt it was a gamble to incorporate the new bus system before he actually had the funding from the half-penny sales tax it paid off when the voters accepted the plan. He emphasized that at present there are 338,228 ridership and he is very pleased with the results.

Lastly, the Mayor expressed his interest in a Joint Participation Agreement (JPA) with the county to begin working on a PTP project in Hialeah. The project is a neighborhood improvement, which is located on NW 62nd Avenue (W. 8th Avenue).

Commissioner Natasha Seijas, Commissioner District 13 was present to offer her support on the JPA with the City of Hialeah, especially since that PTP project is in her district.

He encouraged all the cities to go through the necessary process to collect their share of the surtax proceeds and to enhance public transportation.

CITY OF CORAL GABLES

LtCol Colmenares introduced Alberto Delgado, Public Works Director for Coral Gables.

Mr. Delgado provided and presented a power point presentation illustrating the City of Coral Gables five-year transportation plan and a list of traffic and transportation improvement projects (a copy of the presentation was distributed).

Mr. Morse commented that he had attended a Senior Affairs Council meeting and many citizens expressed that there was a lack of transportation. He suggested that Mr. Delgado meet with the senior council because they had many concerns relating to transportation.

Mr. Buoniconti asked if the Trolley route could be extended to the University of Miami Campus? Mr. Delgado responded that the plan provides for a route to extend from Ponce de Leon Blvd to the University and to South Miami. In addition, a new trolley will be purchased every year to increase routes and service throughout Coral Gables.

Mr. Wilde asked what is the fare to ride the trolley? Mr. Delgado responded that for the first 9 months it will be free and after that it will be evaluated. However, there will be

a transfer system that can be used on Metrobus. The senior citizens will ride for free.

Mr. Givens stated that he hopes that the low income residents of Coral Gables and Coconut Grove have been take into consideration and given an opportunity to voice their concern when Coral Gables began its transportation planning.

Mr. Alvarez informed the members that at the present time two pedestrian overpasses are under construction, one on 27th Avenue and the other is in South Miami. Both are walking distance to the metrorail stations, Coconut Grove and South Miami. A study is going to be conducted to determine if one is needed for the Dadeland station.

LtCol Colmenares opened the floor to the members and public to ask any questions.

Caroline Thompson, City of Miami resident asked few questions regarding the regarding the trolleys and bus benches. Also, thanked Mr. Delgado for his commented that she is

LtCol Colmenares thanked Mr. Delgado for his thorough presentation on such short notice.

ACTION ITEMS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

OLD BUSINESS

CITT STAFF REQUIREMENTS

LtCol Colmenares stated that for the next PRC meeting scheduled for September 17, 2003, at 2:00 pm, he would like to review the list of duties that was distributed at the last PRC meeting, as it pertains to CITT staffing. In addition, the members should add any necessary functions they deem necessary for the CITT staff. Those recommendations will be presented to the Trust on September 24, 2003.

CLOSING REMARKS

LtCol Colmenares asked staff to invite the City of Miami to the next PRC meeting to make a presentation on its transportation projects. He stated that he would be sending each chairperson a copy of the draft Bylaws for their input at the next Bylaws Workshop scheduled to follow the PRC meeting 9/17/03.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.